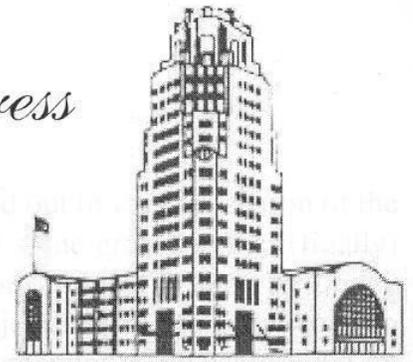


# *Empire State Express*



**June 2021**

PUBLICATION OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER NRHS, INC.

Editor: John C. Dahl    Email [nfcnrhs@gmail.com](mailto:nfcnrhs@gmail.com)

The meeting of the Chapter is scheduled for Friday June 11, 2021 at the Degraff Community Center. **Note we will not be able to meet at Central Terminal this June due to construction in the building.**

## **MEMBER'S NIGHT**

The June meeting entertainment will be an Open House with Member's photos. Please bring in your steam, diesel, trolley or any rail related photos...we can accommodate digital photos on a USB memory stick or traditional 35mm slides. If you intend to bring 35mm slides, please contact Jim Ball ahead of time so we have a projector on hand. We can also show digital video and sound as long as it is in one of the standard formats for Windows computers. Please limit your show to about ten minutes. This is a fun night with variety and informality the key. You never know what you might see! Join in the fun!



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



I'm looking at my Chapter Calendar and just turned it over to June. We are over five months into the year and it seems to be going faster every day. Some of this is great news, fueled by the recovery from the Covid mess. A lot of activities are becoming possible again. We have weathered the storm financially by being both careful and creative. Becky worked very hard to find us some money when our usual sources were taken from us. Some folks were extremely generous to us while we were struggling with the sewer problem and the ADA compliance project at the station.

Thanks to all of you who stepped up to work on the Chicken BBQ fundraiser. In alphabetical order by last name, Bob and Nancy Andrycha, Karen Anstey, John Dahl, Steve and Karen Frey, Cayden Frey, Becky Gerstung (Chairperson), Greg Gerstung, Ben Hiltz, Dennis Hurley, Al Le Teste, Jon Rothenmeyer, Emily Seeley and Al Starkweather. Thank you, thank you,

thank you!!

We came very close to a sellout, raising over \$1600 for the Treasury. This could not have come at a better time. Let us hope that we can resurrect some of the other things that we used to do. The first thing is to reopen our Museum.

The Western New York Division of the National Model Railroad Association will be holding their June meeting in our Museum on June 19<sup>th</sup>. We could use a couple of volunteers to serve as tour guides that day.

In a Major Disappointment, we found out on May 22<sup>nd</sup> that construction work on Central Terminal will prevent us having our Train Show there this fall. That was hard to swallow. All we can do is look forward to next year. This is actually good news, even if it doesn't feel that way. It's good news in that the work on the Terminal, so long awaited, is actually being done.

The WNYRHS will be hosting their Railway Heritage Discovery Festival August 25<sup>th</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup>. We will have our 2022 Calendar ready for sale at that event. This will be the Fiftieth Edition of our Chapter Calendar. We have been publishing it since 1972 if you can believe it. Bob and Greg have been hard at work to make it extra special. You are going to want to have one of these.

This will be the last of my columns until September. Check social media, Facebook, etc. for continuous news. The crew is preparing the Museum to reopen as we go to press. Displays are being spruced up and refreshed. Ben Hiltz has loaned us his collection of Railway Express memorabilia and we have created a display from it and the sign that we got last year. Come and check out your Museum. Now that the world is "reopening" people are looking for places to go. With that happening, we can look forward visitors again. And I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

*Jim Ball*

On the cover: Arcade & Attica #112 is about to depart the venerable Curriers, NY depot October 22, 2017 with a Halloween excursion special. Photo by John C. Dahl

## “SCENE” ON THE LINE - CHAPTER BBQ

The Chapter’s CHICKEN BBQ of May 15 was a huge success. Many Chapter members were on hand to help, and we thank all who stopped by to support this important fundraiser and obtain for themselves a delicious Chiavetta chicken BBQ dinner. All photos by Nancy Andrycha.



Karen Frey & Bob Andrycha work the meal preparation line.



Dennis Hurley, Al Starkweather, & Becky Gerstung pause during a rare lull moment. A steady stream of hungry customers supported this event.

**“SCENE” – continued**



Al Leteste, Steve Frey and Ben Hiltz enjoy the new deck. Behind Ben is the handicap lift gate.



**Railway Heritage Festival – August 25 – 29, 2021**

The Western New York Railway Historical Society is running a Railway Heritage festival at multiple locations starting August 25 at the Williamsville former Lehigh Valley depot, the former Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh depot in Orchard Park August 26, the former Erie depot in Hamburg on August 27, and at the Heritage Discovery Center in Buffalo on August 28 & 29. The Chapter will have a table and exhibit at the HDC those days. Recipients of the electronic edition of ESX will receive a copy of the full flyer.



**THE OLD PHOTO ALBUM**

The old West Shore RR depot in Clarence, NY is seen in this vintage colorized postcard view. Note the old style “banjo” signal between the water tank and station. The building was removed in the 1930’s Depression and today the right of way is a biking trail from Clarence to Akron, NY. JCD

## STATION DECK & HANDICAP ACCESS



The new deck at the station with handicap access lift is on the left side (out of view). The station had a similar platform when it was originally constructed and opened in 1922 which can be seen in historic photos in the Chapter archives. So in a sense, we are recreating what was there historically but with the added plus of making the station accessible to all visitors. Built by Amish craftsmen carpenters thru the generous donations of our Chapter members, we are very thankful for this latest improvement at the museum. After the treated wood has seasoned for a bit, it will be painted in authentic Erie RR colors.

## MIDWAY PARK Historic Marker approved



The Chapter, thanks to the efforts of Anton Schwarzmüller, has been awarded a grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation to place a historic marker at the site of Midway Park (near Bemus Point, NY) on the former Jamestown, Westfield & North Western Rwy. The marker will be cast this summer and hopefully be available for an early Autumn 2021 installation. Many Chapter calendars have featured historic photos taken on the JW&NW over the years including scenes at the one-time amusement park, and the March 2021 ESX featured a short history of the line. Watch for an announcement of the marker unveiling on the Chapter's website & Facebook pages.

*Above: Parlor car #312 at Midway Park with a Buffalo Division of the Railroad Enthusiasts trip. Sunday, June 23, 1940. Harold Alstrom photo.*



# ARCADE & ATTICA ANNOUNCES TRAIN RIDE SCHEDULE FOR 2021

CLIP & SAVE



**MAY**

**MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND:**  
May 29th, 30th, 31st  
(1:00pm)

**JUNE**



**WORLD WAR II WEEKEND:**  
June 5th, 6th  
(10:30am, 2:00pm)

**REGULAR RIDES IN JUNE:**  
12th, 13th, 26th, 27th (1:00pm)

**FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND:**  
"Father's Ride Free w/purchase of a fare"  
June 19th, 20th  
(11:00am, 2:00pm)

**JULY**

**REGULAR RIDES IN JULY:**  
3rd, 7th, 14th, 17th, 18th, 21st, 24th, 25th, 28th, 31st (1:00pm)

**FIRST RESPONDER'S WEEKEND:**  
"First Responders Ride Free w/purchase of a fare"  
July 10th, 11th (1:00pm)



**MURDER MYSTERY IN JULY:**  
10th, 17th, 24th, 31st (5:00pm)

**AUGUST**

**MURDER MYSTERY IN AUGUST:**  
14th, 21st (5:00pm)

**REGULAR RIDES IN AUGUST:**  
1st, 4th, 7th, 8th, 11th, 14th, 15th, 18th, 21st, 22nd, 25th, 28th, 29th (1:00pm)

**SEPTEMBER**

**REGULAR RIDES IN SEPTEMBER:**  
4th, 5th, 11th, 12th, 25th, 26th (1:00pm)



**GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY:**  
September 18th, 19th  
(1:00pm)



**WINE TASTERS:**  
September 18th

**OCTOBER**

**WINE TASTERS:**  
October 2nd (5:00pm)



**ALE ON THE RAILS:**  
October 16th (1:00pm)



**FALL FOLIAGE OCTOBER:**  
2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th, 16th, 17th (11:00am, 2:00pm)

**SENIOR FALL FOLIAGE:**  
October 6th, 13th  
(1:00pm)



**HAUNTED HALLOWEEN EXPRESS:**  
23rd, 24th, 30th  
(11am & 2pm)

**ADULT HAUNTED HALLOWEEN EXPRESS:**  
23rd, 24th, 30th  
(6:00pm)

*Santa's* **WONDERLAND EXPRESS**

Dates: **November 20th, 21th, 26th, 27th, 28th.**  
(For times, check on-line or call the office)

Dates: **December 4th, 5th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 17th, 18th, 19th**  
(For times, check on-line or call the office)

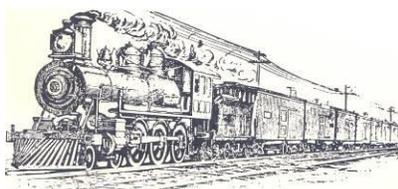
**CHRISTMAS INFORMATION:** The A&A Railroad has revamped its Christmas train! Introducing Santa's Wonderland Express, where you will be traveling to the "North Pole" to visit Santa Claus, meet his reindeer, mail your wish lists and more! This event is a can't miss!

TRAIN TICKETS!

Buy One Ticket for \$22.00 • Get One Ticket Free

Valid June, July, August & Sept,  
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## ON THE TRACK AHEAD

September's program will be a special tribute to Chapter icon and one of the founding members of the organization as an NRHS Chapter in 1942, John M. Prophet. A special photographic, sound and video extravaganza is planned to honor John and the legacy of great photos, railroad sound recordings and movie film which he produced when Buffalo was one of the great rail centers of North America. Don't miss this special program!

## THE RAILWAY CARMAN'S JOURNAL – May 1955



Nearly 70 years ago, the editorial pages of the Railway Carman's Journal contained these cartoons lamenting some of the problems faced by railroads at that time.

Well, the postal issue was certainly resolved. Mail now moves slower with less reliability by truck and airline. And the costs have skyrocketed!

In 1955 more than 85% of intercity mail moved by the then still frequent and wonderful passenger train network. What has changed and what has not in those 70-some years?

That same issue of the 'Journal' contains an intriguing notice of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual AFL Union-Industries Show, held right here May 19-24, 1955 in Buffalo, NY. The location: Memorial Auditorium.

Imagine the local railroad scene then: Central Terminal, the Lehigh Valley Terminal

and the DL&W Station downtown were all still in operation! (LV's Dingens Street station opened later that summer, on August 3, 1955.)

## CHAPTER CALENDAR

**JUN-JUL-AUG Saturday's 1PM to 4PM. Station is open to the public. Volunteers are needed!**

**JUN 11 Regular meeting. Degraff Community Center, 7 PM - Member Photo Night.**

**AUG 25-29 WNY Railway Heritage Discovery Festival – check on line for more information.**

The Niagara Frontier Chapter NRHS, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) publicly supported organization.

Contributions may be deductible for income tax purposes in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service.

**\*\*\* IMPORTANT REMINDERS \*\*\*** If you receive hardcopy of the ESX and your mailing address changes, please send to the attention of Neal Kerin so that your Empire State Express can be addressed properly. Likewise, if your email address changes for any reason, please let Tony Schill know by sending it to the [nfcnrhs@gmail.com](mailto:nfcnrhs@gmail.com) THANK YOU

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